

**METHOD FOR RELEASING SLUG AFTER PUNCHING,
AND PUNCHING METHOD THEREFOR**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method for releasing a slug adhering to a stamp in a punching machine, by carrying the stamp, after performing a punching operation on a sheet material, with the active stroke at least partially through a cutting opening in a cutting plate supporting the sheet material, and carrying the stamp during the return stroke back again through the cutting opening in the cutting plate which close-fittingly encloses the stamp. The invention also relates to a punching machine for releasing the slug adhering to a stamp according to this method.